

CLAIMS

1. A communication system, said communication system comprising:

a first device;

an inter-device linking system linked to said first device, said inter-device linking system operating to:

detect that information cannot be presented on said first device;

determine whether a second device capable of presenting said

information is linked to said inter-device linking system;

send a request for presentation of said information to said

second device when said determining determines that said second device is linked to said inter-device linking system; and

wherein said second device is capable of presenting said information.

2. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said inter-device linking system further operates to:

queue a request for presentation of said information when said

determining determines that said second device which is capable of presenting said information is not linked to said inter-device linking system; and

sending said queued request to said second device when said second device becomes linked to said inter-device linking system.

3. A communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein said inter-device linking system comprises an inter-device linking server and two or more inter-device linking clients.

4. A communication system as recited in claim 3, wherein at least one portion of said inter-device linking clients is implemented in a device operating in said communication system.

5. A communication system as recited in claim 3, wherein at least one of said two or more inter-device linking clients comprises a user agent and a linking agent.

6. A communication system as recited in claim 5,
wherein a first user agent is implemented on said first device; and
said first user agent operates to detect that information cannot be presented on said first device.

7. A communication system as recited in claim 6,
wherein said first user agent is implemented in said first device, and
wherein an application program runs on said first device to facilitate presentation of said information on said first device.

8. A communication system as recited in claim 7,
wherein a first linking agent is associated with said first device, and
wherein said first linking agent operates to send said inter-device linking server at least one presence notification, said at least one presence notification notifying said inter-device linking server of the presence of said first device in said communication system.

9. A communication system as recited in claim 7,
wherein said first linking agent operates to periodically send said presence notification,
wherein said presence notification comprises a field that identifies the capabilities of said first device; and
wherein said first linking agent operates to send said inter-device linking server a request for presentation of information when said first user agent operating on said first device detects that information cannot be displayed on said first device.

10. A communication system as recited in claim 7,
wherein said computing system further comprises a database, and
wherein said inter-device linking server operates to store said at least
one presence notification in said database.

11. A communication system as recited in claim 7,
wherein said computing system further comprises a database, and
wherein said inter-device linking server operates to store at least one
request for presentation of information in said database.

12. A communication system as recited in claim 11,
wherein a second linking agent is associated with said second device,
and
wherein said linking agent receives a forwarded request for
presentation of information from said inter-device linking server.

13. A communication system as recited in claim 12, wherein said second
linking agent initiates launch of an application that is suitable for presentation
of said information.

14. A communication system as recited in claim 13, wherein said second
linking agent operates to retrieve a reference to information that is to be
displayed and provides said reference to said application.

15. A communication system as recited in claim 14, wherein said information
is multimedia information associated with a hypertext link.

16. A method for presenting information on devices operating in a
communication system, said method comprising:

detecting that information cannot be presented on a first device
operating in said communication system;

sending a request for presentation of information when said detecting detects that information cannot be presented on said first device;

determining whether said information can be presented by a second device operating in said communication system; and

forwarding said request for presentation of information to said second device when said determining determines that said information can be presented by said second device.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

queuing said request for presentation of information when said determining determines that said information cannot be presented by said second device; and

forwarding said queued request to said second device when it is determined that said information can be presented by said second device.

18. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

periodically sending presence notifications, said presence notifications being associated with devices operating in said communication system, and

wherein said presence notifications describe the capabilities of their associated devices with respect to presentation of information on said associated devices.

19. A method as recited in claim 16,

wherein said detecting that information cannot be presented on a first device is performed by a first software module implemented on said first device operating in said communication system; and

wherein said first software module operates to send a request for presentation of said information when said detecting detects that information cannot be displayed by said first device.

20. A method as recited in claim 19,

wherein said determining of whether said information can be presented by a second device is performed by a second software module,

wherein said second software module operates to search a database in order to determine whether a presence notification associated with said second device has been received; and

wherein said presence notification is sent by a third software module associated with said second device.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein said second software module operates to forward said request for presentation of information to said third software module.

22. A communication system, said communication system comprising:

a first device;

an inter-device linking server;

a first inter-device linking client associated with said first device, said first inter-device linking client operating to detect that information associated with a hypertext link cannot be presented by said first device and wherein said first inter-device linking client also operates to send a linking request to said inter-device linking server when said first inter-device linking client determines that said information cannot be presented by said first device;

wherein said inter-device linking server operates to determine whether a second device in said communication system which is capable of presenting said information is linked to said inter-device linking server when said linking request is received from said first inter-device linking client;

wherein said inter-device linking server operates to forward said request for presentation of said information to a second inter-device linking client associated with a second device when said inter-device linking server determines that said information can be presented by said second device;

wherein said inter-device linking server operates to queue said request when said inter-device linking server determines that said information cannot be presented by said second device; and

wherein said inter-device linking server operates to forward said queued request to said second inter-device linking client when said second device which is capable of presentation of said information becomes linked to said inter-device linking server.

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23. A communication system as recited in claim 22,

wherein said communication system further comprises a database;

wherein said first and second inter-device linking clients periodically send presence notifications to said inter-device linking server to notify said inter-device linking server of the presence of said first and second devices in said communication system; said presence notifications respectively describing the capabilities of said first and second devices to present information; and

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wherein said inter-device linking server operates to time stamp and

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store said presence notifications in a presence table in said database.

24. A communication system as recited in claim 23,

wherein said inter-device linking server performs a search on said presence table in order to determine whether a second device in said communication system which is capable of displaying said information is linked to said inter-device linking server, and

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wherein said inter-device linking server stores said request in a request table in said database when said searching of said presence table determines that a second device capable of displaying said information is not linked to said inter-device linking server.

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25. A communication system as recited in claim 24, wherein a request table is created for each inter-device linking client that sends a request to said inter-device linking server.

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26. A communication system as recited in claim 24, wherein said inter-device linking server operates to maintain said presence and request tables.

27. A computer readable media including computer program code for presenting information on devices operating in a communication system, said computer readable media comprising:

5 computer program code for detecting that information cannot be presented on a first device operating in said communication system;

computer program code for sending a request for presentation of information when said detecting detects that information cannot be presented on said first device;

10 computer program code for determining whether said information can be presented by a second device operating in said communication system; and

computer program code for forwarding said request for presentation of information to said second device when said determining determines that said
15 information can be presented by said second device.

28. A computer readable media as recited in claim 27, wherein said computer readable media comprises:

20 computer program code for queuing said request for presentation of information when said determining determines that said information cannot be presented by said second device; and

computer program code for forwarding said queued request to said second device when it is determined that said information can be presented by said second device

25 29. A computer readable media as recited in claim 28,

wherein said detecting that information cannot be presented on a first device is performed by a first software module implemented on said first device operating in said communication system; and

30 wherein said first software module operates to send a request for presentation of said information when said detecting detects that information cannot be displayed by said first device.

30. A computer readable media as recited in claim 29,

wherein said determining of whether said information can be presented by a second device is performed by a second software module,

5 wherein said second software module operates to search a database in order to determine whether a presence notification associated with said second device has been received; and

wherein said presence notification is sent by a third software module associated with said second device.

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